

PATENT

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
PATENT OPERATIONS**

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Art Unit: 1742 (Examiner: McNelis, Kathleen A)

Applicants: STEPHEN M. POTTER
PEDRO GUTEMBERG QUARIGUASI NETTO

Serial No: 10/789,694

Filed: February 27, 2004

Title: COMBINED PRE-TREATMENT PROCESS FOR ENABLING FEED MATERIAL
TO BE CHARGED IN DIRECT REDUCTION PROCESS

Charlotte, North Carolina
August 23, 2006

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Dear Sir:

In response to the final Office Action mailed August 9, 2006 and the Interview Summary faxed August 16, 2006 Applicants submit the following amendments and remarks. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Amendment of the Claims begins on page 2.

Remarks begin on page 5